

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 19 with the following amended paragraph:

Next, to obtain the synthetic encoded data 206 shown in FIG. 7 from the output terminal of the selector 105, the selector 105 reads the re-encoded data 205 of an I picture at a decoding start point and the following P' pictures as many as J at the time of the issuance of a random access reproducing request from the first memory 103, and reads the encoded data 201 for the remaining frames from the second memory ~~140~~104. By doing so, even if the degradation of the picture quality occurs to the synthetic encoded data 206 due to the I picture replacing the picture frame in the original encoded data, it is possible to swiftly recover the picture quality by the following P' pictures.